The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Neither great poverty nor great riches will hear reason.—Fielding.

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Communists To Be Dragged In Open Trade Unions Will Expose Wreckers

New York, Dec. 18.—To more effectively continue the fight against Communism, a group of trade unionists announce the organization of the Committee for the Preservation of Trade Unions. The committee has issued a call to all trade unions in this city and vicinity to attend a general conference "to consider plans for the elimination of Communists from the labor movement."

"We call for the workers in all unions to unite against their internal enemy, the Communists," the committee states. "The division between the trade union movement and Communist adventurers must be definitely established."

The signers of the conference call declare that their move does not mean that the Communists are particularly strong.

"Except in the Furriers' and Cloakmakers' unions, locally, they are without power or prestige. In all other unions we have succeeded in stamping them out. Within a short time it is that will be if them will be a bad memory. It is to facilitate their demise, to minimize the amount of danger that they can add to their long record of wreckage that our committee has organized and called a general trade union conference.

"Taking advantage of industrial depression, the Communists were successful in gaining control in some organizations. Two organizations in particular that they have taken over are the Furriers and Cloakmakers of New York City. They immediately threw them into long and bloody strikes, starving the workers, ruining their industries and finally making settlements that betrayed the memberships.

"In their press they glorified their failures and by terrorist methods are attempting to stifle opposition of enraged members. Workers everywhere have had ample opportunity to study their methods and ability. The time has come when the preservation of the trade unions demands the expulsion of these elements from office and control."

CLOAK MAKERS WIN FIVE-DAY WORK WEEK

Chicago, Dec. 18.—Two thousand cloakmakers, members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, secured the five-day week. A three-year agreement with employers provides for a 42-hour week for one-half of the three years and a 40-hour week for the remaining one-half. Previously the employes worked 44 hours a week.

CHILD LABOR INCREASES

The United States Children's Bureau reports that child labor in industry is on the increase throughout the country.

This information does not accord with predictions that agitation for the federal child labor amendment will result in improved state child labor laws.

Instead, it again proves that profiteers in child labor can not be trusted. It is all the same to them whether the federal government or the state checks them. They use different excuses, but they have one purpose.

It remains for the people to decide whether a physically stunted and an illiterate citizenry of the future justifies a continuance of present conditions.

Congress attempted to debar the products of child labor from interstate commerce, but the Supreme Court said this was illegal. Lottery tickets can be debarred, but not a commodity that children make.

Congress then attempted to tax the products of child labor, but again the Supreme Court interfered. The court had previously ruled that it is legal to tax state banks and oleomargarine out of existence. In these cases the court held that the intent of congress can not be considered. It reversed itself in the child labor case by holding that while the law claims it to be a tax bill, it is an attempt to accomplish another purpose.

The child labor evil calls for insistent protest by every citizen who considers the welfare of future generations and his country.

Courts and profiteers have been known to bow to an intelligent public opinion.

SENATE ABANDONS TRIAL OF ENGLISH

Washington, Dec. 18.—By a vote of 70 to 9 the Senate accepted the House recommendation that impeachment charges against Federal Judge English be dropped because he resigned rather than face trial.

Under the Constitution the House has the sole power of impeachment and the Senate has the sole power to try the case.

While accepting the House views, several Senators expressed regret that the trial will not proceed "for the purpose of warning other men holding the position of federal judge."

In suggesting that the law be changed to provide for expedient impeachment trials, Senator Reed of Missouri intimated that other impeachments are not improbable.

"If I am correctly informed," he said, "other impeachment proceedings will be necessary in this country—a statement that I regret to make, but one that I believe is justified."

English was a notorious labor injunction judge during the shop men's strike. He was charged with being involved in a bankruptcy ring and with other misdemeanors.

TAFT CALLED UPON TO RESIGN OR REFUSE CARNEGIE SUBSIDY

Washington, Dec. 18.—Chief Justice Taft should resign from the United States Supreme Court or renounce his Carnegie subsidy of $10,000 a year, declared Congressman Rainey in discussing the bill to increase salaries of federal judges. The bill was approved and the salaries of Supreme Court justices are increased $5,000 a year.

Pension payments to Mr. Taft commenced after the will of Andrew Carnegie was probated in August, 1919. Steel trust securities valued at $200,000 are set aside to assure $10,000 annually to the chief justice.

Congressman Rainey called attention to the number of times the steel trust and its subsidiaries have been before the Supreme Court in important litigation.

"If a jury," said Mr. Rainey, "were being called into the box and this great corporation or some one of its subsidaries were a party to the suit and a prospective juror were being examined as to his qualifications and he should admit that he was receiving every year a subsidy of $10,000, paid out of a segregation for that purpose of the securities of the steel corporation, do you think he would be accepted on the jury? No court would refuse to sustain a 'challenge for cause.'

"Ought not the same principles in fact apply to a judge of the court before whom the case was being tried? If this proposition is true, is the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, in morals and in legal ethics at least—do not desire to use harsher terms—qualified to sit as the Chief Justice of the greatest and the most important and the most irresponsible court in all the world?"

The speaker referred to a code of ethics Mr. Taft recently prepared for the American Bar Association.

"I agree with him," declared Mr. Rainey, "when he says he should not accept favors from interests likely to be submitted to him for judgment. I agree with him when he says that he should 'so far as reasonably possible,' refrain from all relations which might arouse suspicion that such relations might warp or bias his judgment or prevent his impartial attitude of mind,'

Agreeing with these propositions I demand that he should either relinquish this subsidy or resign the high position he holds."

FIVE-DAY WORK WEEK AIDS HOME OWNERSHIP

New York, Dec. 18.—"Establishment of the five-day week in industry means that the worker has another day in which to enjoy his home and all the pleasures of home ownership in country and suburbs. Few workers would be willing to spend this extra holiday in a small city apartment," said W. Burke Harmon, president of a real estate corporation in this city.

"This increasing leisure among all classes of workers has become a remarkable incentive to the own-your-home movement," he said.

"During the nine-year period, 1914-23, there was more than 25 per cent gain in the output per worker. This has resulted in higher wages and greater wealth available for home investment."

Convention Theory Sounds Good; In Practice, Few Men In Charge

Washington, Dec. 18.—"The convention system represents party leaders but not the people," said Senator Dill, in a speech on the senate floor in which he traced the development of popular elections in this country.

In theory the convention brings the best elements of the party together for consultation, co-operation and promotion of party enthusiasm, he said.

"In practice it often brings the worst elements of the party together. At least it brings the political henchmen of the party leaders, the puppets of those with wealth and power who desire personal favors from government officials and also special-privilege legislation. With bands playing, galleries cheering and bombastic oratory the offers of future preferment as well as the insistence upon the duty owed for past favors, the conventions of the leaders are put across. It is during the white heat of a convention that the bosses can do their best work, and once the candidate is nominated the delegates go home to carry their precincts. If the candidate wins he owes victory to the leaders who nominated him. Without nomination he never could have been elected.

"The experiences of the people with the primary have proved its advantages and there is no so great that it seems like a proposal to turn the wheels of the chariot of democracy backward even to suggest a return to the convention system.

"The direct primary has destroyed party slavery. It has freed the voters from the power of party names and turned their attention to the candidate himself. The old slogan of the party bosses, 'vote the ticket straight,' seems as out of date now as 'the king can do no wrong.'

"Fifty years ago voters who dared scratch the ticket were termed 'mugwumps' in derision and it is considered one of the best traits of good citizenship to 'vote for the man instead of the party.'

"Not only has the direct primary freed the voters from party slavery, but it has freed candidates before election and public officials after election from the control of party bosses.

"The control of nomination is the citizens' citidal. It is the source of government."

PROBLEMS ON PACIFIC AFFECT EVERY PEOPLE

Riverside, Cal., Dec. 18.—"Out here on the Pacific we are facing difficult problems," declared Paul Scharrenberg, secretary-treasurer of the California State Federation of Labor, before the Institute of International Relations.

"One-half of the human race lives in nations bordering on the Pacific and it is on the Pacific that the world must look for the brighter day for humanity and the settlement of its distressing problems. Because of wireless communication, the old system of diplomacy has passed. Now there is no need for this system."

Japanese exclusion was based upon the fundamental law of the land which denies citizenship to people of the yellow and brown races, the speaker said. If pro-Japanese would concentrate their efforts on repeal of one of America's first laws of citizenship they would clarify the issue and would work more effectively toward their object, he said, for the exclusion laws now in force exclude those ineligible to citizenship.

The speaker called attention to the fact that Japanese are excluded by Australia, Canada and the British possessions, where there is no hint of trouble because of that policy.

LABOR WOULD ANNUL COURT'S WAGES RULE

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 18.—The executive council of the State Federation of Labor favors an amendment to the state labor law that would overcome the effect upon it of the decision of the United States Supreme Court in annulling the Oklahoma prevailing-rate-of-wages law. Attorney General Ottinger has ruled that the decision adversely affects the New York law.

The amendment would provide a plan for ascertaining "prevailing wages" and includes an automatic penalty for violation and provides for recovery by employes of the difference between wages paid and the legal rate on public work.

In the Oklahoma case the Supreme Court ruled that the term "current rate of wages" is not explicit, and that criminal proceedings must be based on specific charges of wrong doing. The court cited varying wage scales paid in the vicinity in which the offending contractor operated.

"To construe the phrase 'current rate of wages' as meaning either the lowest rate or the highest rate or any intermediate rate or, if it were possible to determine the various factors to be considered, an average of all these rates, would be to defeat the purpose of the legislature as to promote it," the court said.

The court also objected to the terms "neighborhood" and "locality" in which the law was to operate.

"Both terms are elastic and, dependent upon circumstances, may be equally satisfied by areas measured by rods or by miles," the court said.

PUBLIC IS TAXED BILLIONS THROUGH FAULTY EQUIPMENT

New York, Dec. 18.—Harold V. Coes, general manager of the Belden Manufacturing Company, Chicago, gave an insight into the staggering wastes in industry when he told the American Society of Mechanical Engineers that billions of dollars annually would be saved in industry by the wider use of conveyors and similar factory equipment.

The speaker produced elaborate statistics and diagrams to support his claim. A survey which he mentioned disclosed that 22 per cent of all American factory labor costs went into the handling of materials, or slightly more than $3,000,000,000 out of a total payroll figure of $14,017,107,000.

Readjustments of their systems by American manufacturers, said Mr. Coes, would emphasize the recipients of $1,084,000,000 of payroll "from back-breaking, nerve-racking, fatiguing work to be employed in more pleasant, less exhausting places and in other phases of industry."

WOMEN'S 10-HOUR LAW IS IGNORED IN SOUTH

Washington, Dec. 18.—The Mississippi law that limits the work day for women to 10 hours is 33 per cent ineffective, according to a study of working conditions in that state by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Over one-third of the women employed in the plants surveyed were expected to put in a regular working day longer than 10 hours," the report states.

The weekly wage for white women in the plants visited was found to be $8.66 and negro women averaged $5.75 and $5.90.

"In respect to plant conditions, also, there was much to be desired. Toilet rooms are reported with no washing facilities, or with equipment that was inadequate, with no towels. In not far from one-fourth of the establishments common drinking cups were found, while in others no cups were provided. Toilet room conditions were frequently most unsatisfactory, and in a number of cases the equipment was inadequate."

MINIMUM WAGE LAW FOR FEDERAL LABOR

Washington, Dec. 18.—A bill providing for a minimum salary of $1,500 a year for government employes has been introduced in the house by Representative Welsh of California.

These employes would be placed in four groups—clerical, administration and fiscal, with salaries ranging from $1,500 to $7,500 a year; professional and scientific, with salaries ranging from $1,800 to $7,500; custodial, with salaries ranging from $780 to $3,300, and clerical and mechanical, from 60 cents an hour to $3,600 a year.

LESS CUBAN SUGAR

New York, Dec. 18.—President Machado has issued a decree limiting the next sugar crop of that island. A government official will notify each mill the amount of sugar it may produce.

This lessening of output is favored by New York financial interests, who have more than $750,000,000 invested in the Cuban sugar industry, and who are hopeful that higher prices will result.

WILL ATTACK PRIMARY

Madison, Wis., Dec. 18.—The Wisconsin primary law will be attacked at the coming session of the state legislature.

WOULD DEFINE COSTS IN P. O. DEPARTMENT

Washington, Dec. 18.—Free service and public welfare projects of the post office department will not be included in charges against postal operations if a bill introduced by Congressman Clyde Kelly becomes a law.

The author of the bill led the fight in the last House of Representatives for wage increases for postal workers. Opponents pointed to the department's deficit as an argument against the increase.

The bill directs the postmaster general in his annual report to omit the amounts expended for the free service and public welfare projects from expenditures to be charged against postal revenues "and to set forth the surplus or deficit from postal operations during the preceding fiscal year without the inclusion of such free services and public welfare projects."

Postal employes are asking if the Kelly bill will receive the support of postal bureaucrats who so lustily demand that the post office department "be placed on a self-supporting basis."

NEW YORK LAW OFFICES ARE "FACTORYIZED"

New York, Dec. 18.—"Factorized" was the term used to describe law offices in this city by Andrew Ten Eyck, well known lawyer and secretary of the Williamstown Institute of Politics.

In an address to young lawyers who had just been admitted to the bar, Mr. Ten Eyck said: "The factoryization of the profession in large communities like New York is a great step forward. The old-fashioned lawyer and the old-fashioned law office are gone. The modern law office is a factory where each new client is met by the man who excels in handling people and in fixing fees, and probably sees no one else.

"In my opinion, unless we, as lawyers, change our whole mental attitude we will forfeit public confidence the community has left in us."

UNION STARTS FIGHT AGAINST COMMUNISTS

Chicago, Dec. 18.—More than 5,000 machinists in the district No. 8, International Association of Machinists, have started an anti-Communist campaign.

The "reds" operate through the Trade Union Educational League, a subsidiary of the Workers (Communist) party. The recent election held by district machinists resulted in a defeat for the "reds" ticket, and the trade union administration has adopted an aggressive policy toward the disrupters.

HIGH COURT ASKED TO REVIEW CONTROL-OF-STRIKES' DECISION

Washington, Dec. 18.—Attorneys for Kansas miners have asked the United States Supreme Court to review its decision that a strike to collect a wage claim is not a permissible purpose. The petitioners claim the court erred in its account of the facts.

If the decision stands courts may define what "and for what" purpose workers can strike.

The decision is the result of a wage dispute in a Kansas mine. One Mishlavich was employed under an agreement which called for an increase when he was 19 years old. When he reached 19, the company refused to pay. A joint board of operators and miners decided against the company but one leader of the strike was arrested for violating the state law which created the Court of Industrial Relations and which makes strikes illegal.

In upholding the conviction of the miner the Supreme Court said:

"The right to carry on business—is it called liberty or property—has value. To interfere with this right without just cause is unlawful. The fact that the injury was inflicted by a strike is not a justification. But a strike may be illegal because of its purpose, however orderly it may be conducted. To collect a stale claim due to a fellow member of the union who was formerly employed in the same mine is not a permissible purpose. In the absence of a valid agreement to the contrary, each party to a disputed claim may insist that it be determined only by a court.

"Neither the common law, nor the Fourteenth amendment, confers the absolute right to strike."

WORKERS KNOW HOW WASTE CAN BE CUT

New York, Dec. 18.—Trade unions provide the best contact between employers and workers, Matthew Woll, vice president of the A. F. of L., told the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, at their meeting in this city. Mr. Woll asserted that the workers suggest improvements which are outside the experience of management and so make a specialized contribution. When he has no channels to voice his ideas, they are lost to the industry."

HIGH INSURANCE RATES

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 18.—Minnesota protest to the governor against increasing rates that private insurance companies are permitted to charge.

The employes show that of the $5,000,000 collected in premiums, $2,000,000 is absorbed by the expense account, $1,000,000 is paid for loss of time and $2,000,000 to pay for industrial accidents and deaths. Rates are the highest in the country. Trade unionists point to the saving if a state fund, similar to Ohio's, were adopted.

LONGER LIFE FOR INFANTS

Washington, Dec. 18.—Five western states—Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, Washington and Oregon—had an infant death rate of 60 or below per 1,000 in 1925, the lowest reported for the country, said Miss Grace Abbott, chief of the United States Children's Bureau, in her annual report. The infant mortality for the entire country was 72 per 1,000.

JAPANESE WAR TALK DIDN'T SCARE PUBLIC

Washington, Dec. 18.—A Japanese war scare was a leading defense of Edward L. Doheny and former Secretary of the Interior Fall in their trial on conspiracy charges in connection with the Elk Hills oil lease. Imperialism, however, did not alarm the nation.

Doheny said he received this confidential information from Admiral J. K. Robison, chief of the Naval Bureau of Engineering, when the leases were made:

"He told me that the intelligence department of the navy had secured, through Admiral Cleaves, reports of the already preparedness and of the orders that had actually been issued for mobilization of the United States frontier, and for the manoeuvers in the Pacific toward our borders. He said he had seen enough of the secret of invasions on the Atlantic coast of Europe to know that an invasion by the Japanese on the Pacific coast of California would mean a reign of terrorism that would be indescribable."

The four-power Pacific treaty originating in the Washington arms conference, called by President Harding, was ratified by the senate on March 24, 1922. In this treaty the United States and Japan pledged themselves to arbitrate their differences. After ratification Doheny secured his first oil lease over the protest of every ranking naval official, except Admiral Robison.

Testifying at a senate hearing, Admiral Griffin, who was chief of the Naval Bureau of Engineering for eight years, said:

"I told him (Secretary of the Navy Denby) that if he turned the administration (of the navy oil lands) over to the Interior Department we might just as well say good-bye to our oil."

HOW WILL P. O. MEET LESS POSTAGE PLEA?

Washington, Dec. 18.—Postal workers are interested in the position the administration will take on the demand of publishers for a reduction in second-class postage rates.

"Postal employes will not soon forget that President Coolidge vetoed a wage bill because he believed the postal service should be financially self-sustaining," writes Thomas F. Flaherty, editor of the National Postal Clerk, official magazine of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks. "He urged another wage bill that provided for raising postal revenues to offset the cost of the pay increases. In the veto message, and also in subsequent public statements, administration spokesmen made it plain that the postal service should be financially self-supporting.

"We wonder whether this policy will be followed in meeting the publishers' demands for lower postage rates? Is the policy of 'service for profit' an adopted one to be consistently followed? Or is it a device to defeat employes in their just and moderate requests for pay adjustments?

"Concisely, are we to have a postal system conducted for public service, performing many financially non-productive social services without regard to cost, or are we to have a service which must show a favorable financial balance on every expenditure?

"Must the service show a profit only when the employes' pay raises are concerned and be considered a social agency when the politically powerful publishers' profits are involved?

"We shall soon have the answer from the postal administrators' attitude on the second-class rate reduction proposal."

WORLD COURT CHANGES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

Washington, Dec. 18.—The administration will not accept changes in the World Court reservations, according to Senator Lenroot.

The senator led the fight for ratification of the World Court. One reservation provides that the court can not act on any question of interest to the United States without the approval of this country. Other nations suggest that the court, rather than this country, decide whether the United States will be affected.

PAY ROLLS BUILD CITY

Duluth, Minn., Dec. 18.—"The importance of pay rolls as a city builder was pointed out by Matthew Carey of Flint, Mich., vice president of the National Association of Real Estate Boards, in an address to local real estate men.

AWNING WORKERS GAIN

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 18.—Awning workers have secured the eight-hour day, wage increase of 20 cents an hour and improved working conditions.

PHYSICIANS UNITE IN REGULAR UNION

Chicago, Dec. 18.—More than 125 physicians employed by the city health department have organized and affiliated to the trade union movement. They ask that their monthly rate of $100 be increased to $200 and that the city pay for upkeep of automobiles they use when calling upon city patients. They are supported by Dr. Herman N. Bundesen, city commissioner of health, who says:

"The average time these doctors have served the city is from 10 to 12 years. Practically all are graduates of Class A medical schools, and every one is a recognized leader in his locality and many are high grade specialists in the diseases of children.

"They are on duty subject to call 24 hours a day, Sundays and holidays included.

"Basing their visits on the average charge of a physician's call, they receive about 10 cents per visit. To cover the territory assigned, each physician is compelled to use an automobile, the running expenses of which he pays out of his own pocket."

PENSION FUND GROWS; U. S. NOT "GENEROUS"

Washington, Dec. 18.—A report by the commissioner of pensions shows that last year's operation of the federal retirement law for civil service employes resulted in the collection of $10,000,000 more than expenses.

Under the law the government is supposed to make up any deficit to meet retirement charges, but it is estimated that it will be at least 25 years before the government will be called upon to pay.

When the act was passed in 1920 provision was made for an assessment of 2½ per cent on wages of all employes. Last July this assessment was raised to 3½ per cent. The surplus totals $55,000,000.

ANTI-PICKETING RULE OPPOSED BY WORKERS

Ottawa, Ontario, Dec. 18.—Dominion trade unionists are holding hearings with government officials to secure a law that will nullify an anti-picketing decision by the Canadian Supreme Court.

The question was a leading issue at the last convention of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress.

LYNCHINGS INCREASE

Minneapolis, Dec. 18.—Twenty-seven lynchings, nine more than the whole of 1925, occurred in the United States up to November 15, 1926, the committee on race relations reported to the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America.

"This," said the report, "represents the severest setback since 1922 in the campaign to marshal churches against lynching. The plea of the churches for a lynchless land seems farther from realization than any year since that time."

COMPANY 'UNION' REPLACES BRUTE FORCE

By JOSEPH E. COHEN
In Typographical Journal

The company "union" is the up-to-the-minute effort of unfair employers to undo the work of trade unions. It means that the days of brute force are over, the time being, held in check. Not that autocratic judges with ready injunctions against strikers are wanting or that they no longer exist, but that the right to strike is doubtful. Not that policemen's clubs fail to be directed toward the anatomy of workers who refuse to enter abominable shops. Not that legislators and executives can not be found who will not drive labor into involuntary servitude.

But today these manifestations are rather few and far between against, a past custom which, in a free country, should always have been honored more in the breach than in the observance. Nor is there any guarantee that, in a pinch, the Duxbury haters' outrage might not be invoked as a precedent.

It may be assumed then that more covert and artful methods are to be resorted to against the labor movement. One of the outstanding manifestations of this nefarious plan is to coerce employes into considering themselves inside a company "union."

While in no sense a union, it is company property. Because of that it is no union. Because of that it has the almighty financial backing of the company. What is more to the point, the stupendous capital of the larger corporations which is so hostile to trade unions foster and organize company "unions."

If at any time these corporations wish to be considered fair to their employes, the way to show it is to give them a free hand to join bona fide unions of their own with them through union representatives.

For it is as true now as it always has been that labor can take care of its interests by helping itself.

It is notable that the corporations which have been consistently anti-union to the labor movement are now herding their employes like automatons into the company "union." Because, of course, that the trade unions are up against the most powerful combinations of capital.

It is certain that labor has its eyes wide open to the serious situation which it faces. This is no skirmish, but a first-class encounter. And there is no question of the outcome.

To suppose that labor through humanity is to sink into some form of slavery, whether benevolent or malevolent, whether lost in poverty or veiled with comfort. That is, indeed, a sorry view.

It is nearer the line of historical change to find the world always tending to further approaches to freedom, and to see in the labor movement the engine for development into industrial democracy.